GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Promotion of Compost
Patole Shri Nanabhau Falgunrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the adverse effects of excessive use of urea fertilizers on crops and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the fertility of soil is also declining as a result of constant use of urea, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote production and use of compost in place of urea by providing subsidy thereon and if so,the details thereof; and

(d) whether the said promotion of production and use of compost is likely to reduce the use of urea and mitigate the burden of urea subsidy on the Government exchequer and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) studies show that there is no harmful effect of chemical fertilizers with recommended doses and judicious use. However, imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers including urea coupled with low addition of organic matter over years may result in multinutrient deficiencies and decline in soil health. The limiting nutrients do not allow the full expression of other nutrients, thereby reducing the fertilizer responses and crop productivity.

(c): The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) through soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with bio-fertilizers and locally available organic manures like Farm Yard Manure (FYM), compost, vermi compost and green manure to maintain soil health and its productivity.

In consonance with above policy, Government promotes on farm production of organic compost and also the compost production units set up in private sector.

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Under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, Government is encouraging establishment of fruit/vegetable market/agro waste compost production unit capacity of 3000 ton per annum. Under Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), financial assistance is provided @ 33 percent for farmers/ individual private agencies including youth with financial outlay limited to Rs. 63 lakh whichever is less.

The Department of Fertilizers has approved a policy on promotion of City Compost in which market development assistance in the form of fixed amount of Rs. 1500/tone will be provided for scaling up production and consumption of city compost.

In order to promote use of organic manures in the country, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed technologies to prepare various types of organic manures that have been tested on different soils using various crops and found useful in improving soil health and crop productivity. All these technologies are being popularized among farmers through Front Line Demonstrations, farmers trainings, publishing extension materials in local languages.

In case of chemical fertilizers, Government is promoting balanced and regulated use of fertilizers. Advisories are issued to apply soil test based recommended doses for crop production. Soil Health Card Scheme provides cards to farmers with all relevant information on fertility and balanced use.

(d): The ICAR under its All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments (LTFE) has demonstrated that the response to the chemical fertilizers could be raised significantly with balanced application of fertilizer nutrients along with organic manures. Therefore, Government has issued advisories for balanced use of fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures to maintain soil health and its productivity.

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